

# THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH EDITOR  
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## DO NOT HAMPER A GOOD LAW.

The majority of the legislators have expressed their satisfaction with the way in which the present liquor law is working out. The next matter for the members to consider is the granting of a sufficient appropriation for the expenses of the various Boards of License Commissioners in order that the enforcement of the law may be satisfactorily continued. No law unless enforced and properly enforced is effective in anything. There seems to be a disposition manifested to limit the appropriation for the License Commissioners to the bare carrying out of the work of granting the licenses, leaving the matter of "blind pigs" and other violations of the law, except as relates to license holders, to the county police. In other words, the legislators will appropriate money to pay the expense of watching the licensed dealers only, leaving the unlicensed ones to be looked after solely by the regular police.

This would be a mistake. Get the liquor business—legal or illegal—out of reach of politics. The various license inspectors work always in conjunction with the regular police, but they are able usually to do more than the police in the way of detecting and convicting illicit dealers, while their position being that of appointed officers of appointed boards enables them to do their work fearless of consequences. To legislate so that these men are restricted in their inspection to licensed places is unfair to the license holders, unfair to the law and unfair to the public. The amount of money spent in informers' fees and in securing evidence is little in comparison with the amounts realized in fines, while the holding in check of illicit dealers is worth all that it has cost if there had never been one cent of revenue from fines and costs.

## INSURANCE IN HAWAII.

The year 1907 was a good year for the insurance writers in Hawaii, according to the report of the Insurance Commissioner, issued for 1907 last week, the total premiums paid in all classes of insurance having been over a million dollars more than the losses paid. In no class of insurance did the claims paid equal the premiums collected, and in fire insurance only one company out of forty-eight authorized to do business in the Territory paid claims greater in amount than the premiums taken up, this deficit being only \$671.64.

Sixteen fire insurance companies were enabled to put all the amounts of their premiums on Hawaiian business for the year down to profit, while ten other companies which collected on an average over ten thousand dollars each in premiums had to disburse on an average only \$52.50 each. The Norwich Union did the best business, with a net profit of over \$32,000, while the biggest amount in claims was paid by the same company. The Caledonian, of Edinburgh, got off with the payment of \$2.13 during the year, while it wrote insurance for over \$347,000.

Life insurance in force at the end of 1907 in Hawaii amounted to \$13,745,370, a gain of nearly a quarter of a million in policy totals during the year. The premium collected during the year amounted to \$498,416.82, against which the eleven authorized companies paid death claims amounting to \$75,910.53. The New York, the Equitable and the Pacific Mutual did the bulk of the business, between the three having issued nine out of the thirteen millions in force. The number of policies in force were 4400.

Automobile and fidelity and surety companies had no losses in the Territory for 1907.

## WEATHER BUREAU DEFENSE.

It is not often that the criticisms of the forecasts of the Weather Bureau Department are answered by any of the department officials, but the great amount of adverse criticism created throughout the United States because the head bureau at Washington made no official forecast of the storm of March 4, which ruined the inaugural ceremonies, has drawn forth a reply from Willis L. Moore, chief of the bureau. The retort of the chief is that the men behind the weather forecasts are human and consequently not infallible, but that they guess right nine times out of ten. He says:

"Forecasts of the Weather Bureau are before the public every day in the year. In the past about one prediction out of each ten failed to be verified, and it may be expected that the same ratio of failure will be maintained until meteorology can be made, what it is not now, an exact science."

"The forecasters of the U. S. Weather Bureau are the equals, if not the superiors, of any others in the world, and their predictions of frosts, cold waves, floods, and marine storms, although subject to error in the proportion of about one to ten, are of such value to the industries of the nation that if one of the newspapers that now so freely criticize because two unverified forecasts for the District of Columbia have fallen on inauguration day were to omit from its pages the daily predictions of the weather its readers would compel it to restore them, and if the Department or Congress were to close a station of the Bureau in any part of the United States the property interests would demand its restoration. This would not be the case if the hysterical abuse that is now being indulged in was justified."

## SIMPLIFIED SPELLING AT REST.

T-h-r-o-u-g-h spells through for the next four years. T-h-r-u does not spell anything. T-h-r-e-w o-u-t spells what President Taft has done to Mr. Roosevelt's reorganization of Webster's Dictionary as to simplified spelling.

Simplified spelling is to exist no more in White House correspondence except as an antique and a curiosity. There is to be no more puzzling over sonorous sounds, and President Taft's messages to Congress and his other correspondence will contain words "spelled out" just as Mr. Taft spelled out his words when he wrote essays at Yale.

President Taft practically began this change in his inaugural address. Advance copies showed that there were none of the peculiarly spelled words so characteristic of Mr. Roosevelt's addresses. When President Roosevelt read over the address before it was delivered, he was tempted to blue pencil each through and insert a thru, an address for an addressed, and a dropt for a dropped.

A-x-e now spells what Mr. Taft will use on the heads of the Roosevelt office holders instead of ax; although, and not "altho," spells although; clipped and not "clipt" spells the past tense of clip, while if President Taft should ever have occasion to use the word kissed in his official correspondence he will not spell it "kist."

For those in whose care are children and others the addresses to be made at the meeting of the Red Cross Society, in the room of the Federal Court this afternoon, should be of value. There is nothing faddy about the acquisition of some practical knowledge of what to do in cases of emergency. As many as possible should attend the meeting and hear what is to be said.

Texas has a way of her own of preparing a warm welcome for her homecoming distinguished sons. Jack Johnson, who won fame for himself by thumping the boss bruiser of the world in Australia and winning a championship, whereby he gained much money and a white wife, has been notified by his home states that "the tar pot is boiling for you."

One explanation of the retirement of Ambassador White by the new President is that twenty-three years ago White snubbed Mr. Taft and his bride, the Ambassador then being a secretary at the Vienna Legation. Twenty-three years is a long while to wait to get even, but the number seems suitable.

The Senate is relied upon to knock out the ridiculous clause in the proposed Lunacy Commission Bill which gives the right of appeal from the finding of experts to a Circuit Court jury. Under the commission system all the rights of the individual are thoroughly assured.

An official description of Honolulu's chief of detectives states that he is five feet eleven inches high, runs north and south thirty-four inches and weighs the same as two hundred and twenty pounds of poi.

One good thing can be said of Representative Kaniho's recent strictures on the National Guard, and that is that he is certainly not playing politics in making them.

Manufacturers are now apprehensively waiting to see whether the tariff is to be in the nature of pie or a lemon.

## Comment of the Island Press

Hawaii Herald—The Herald is advised that the consideration of the Governor's appointments, for confirmation or otherwise, will be taken up by the Senate early in April. It is thought that two, if not three, departmental chiefs' heads are slated for the basket.

Hawaii Herald—If the Legislature should place all health matters in control of the counties, the United States Marine Hospital Service is likely to have a word to say.

Hawaii Shippo—To put it plainly, the Japanese are tired of this continual and senseless nagging. The present Legislature has already done more harm to the friendly feeling between the resident Japanese and the other races in the Islands than all the other things that have preceded since the first body of Japanese landed here, brought by the planters and induced to come.

It appears that the Coelho poison has infected the whole Legislature, which shows what a mighty influence an ignoramus can achieve if his sphere of operation is only confined among those to whom ignorance can appeal and in whose ears the voice of reason, fairness and broadmindedness is unheard and unattended to.

The Legislature has tried to muzzle the press. No wonder.

## MYSTIFIED BY THE MOVING PICTURES

(Continued From Page One.)

landing scene at Laupahoehoe. There was a moment or two of dead silence when the crowd saw the surging water, then, as the boat was rowed into sight from the steamer, a shout went up that rose in round after round of cheering through the early part of the exhibition until the people were simply unable to cheer any more. It was a great tribute to the pictures shown and an eloquent expression of thanks to those who had helped secure the moving-picture machine for the people of the Settlement.

"After I had been showing the pictures a short while it began to blow and rain. I was protected and under shelter, but those who watched were outside. I suggested calling the show off for the evening, but this was met with a great shout to go on, and I turned on reel after reel, until late into the night, the people watching spellbound and paying no attention to the rain that fell and soaked them."

"The pictures that made the greatest hit were those of Hawaii. These the people could understand and appreciate to the fullest. I showed them all I had and then ran some of the scenes over and over again. The 'trick' pictures puzzled them and did not seem to be so popular, although they watched them intently just the same. There was not the spontaneous enthusiasm over them, however, as there was over the scenes of things they knew."

"At the first show, when I was running the picture of the old woman from the Lunalilo Home, the smoking picture, the noise was very great, but above all the cheering was a shrill command from one old woman in the audience for the rest to 'kulkuli.' Superintendent McVeigh explained to me afterward that she wanted the crowd to keep still so she could hear what the woman on the screen was saying."

"Nothing that I have ever done has given me the satisfaction that I have in having been able to give the people of the Settlement the pleasure they received from watching those pictures night after night during my two weeks among them."

Mr. Bonine states that the people at the Settlement are busy rehearsing the speeches they are going to make to the legislators who are to visit Molokai on Sunday next. One of the things they are going to ask for is a building for their moving picture shows.

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